The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Dodd Left Rights Battle to Aid Klein

By Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

Probably the most important evidence linking Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.), with Gen. Julius Klein has been brought out by James Boyd, Dodd's long-time administrative assistant. It pertained to the reasons for the Senator's trip to West Germany in April, 1964.

This is important because Dodd has thrown out ten of the libel suit charges originally brought against us, including our detailed report on how he had pocketed money raised from testimonial dinners.

The Klein-Dodd relationship, therefore, becomes extremely important. But it is also the most difficult for the public to understand. Perhaps that's why the Senator and some of his friends on the Senate Ethics Committee want to stand or fall on this phase of the case.

Dodd has claimed that he went to Germany on business for the Senate Internal Security Committee, not to help Klein bolster the confidence of Klein's West German clients who had been shaken by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee investigation of Gen. Klein and his operations as a foreign agent.

Sen. Dodd had taken four trips to West Germany between 1960 and 1965, which is a lot, and had consulted Klein before each trip. However, the trip in April, 1964, was crucial because at that time Klein's $300,000-a-year in West German retainers hung in the balance. If he could get a member of the same Foreign Relations Committee which had investigated him to go to Germany and reassure his clients the $300,000 in fees could be retained.

No Time to Leave Washington

Boyd, who was Sen. Dodd's No. 1 assistant at that time, recalled that in the spring of 1964 the civil rights bill was up for Senate passage and faced a tough fight.

Southern Senators were staging a filibuster. To overcome it, the Democratic leadership had placed certain Senators in charge of certain sections of the bill, and Dodd, a Northern Senator, was a section chief.

He was supposed to be on hand every day to combat the filibuster and especially to fight for his section of the bill.

Every day, Senators Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), and Tom Kuchel (R-Calif.), the bill's floor managers, wrote letters to Northern Senators exhorting them to be on hand to answer quorum calls.

The Southern strategy was to keep demanding roll calls in order to prolong the filibuster. If a quorum failed to answer the roll, the Southerners could adjourn for the day and rest up for the next day's filibuster.

On April 1, the Humphrey-Kuchel letter pleaded that it was "now more important than ever" to answer the calls. When the Northerners failed to raise a quorum on April 4, Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, (D-Mont.), angrily called this "a travesty on the legislative process."

Two days later, Sen. Dodd suddenly announced to his assistant, James Boyd, that he was leaving for Germany. Boyd has testified that he was "shocked and surprised." He had been receiving phone calls from Humphrey's office and he reminded Dodd of his obligation in the civil rights fight.

Dodd has now put forward the alibi that he went to Germany to interview a Communist assassin, B. N. Stashinsky, who had defected. The truth is that the Senate Internal Security Committee had been in touch with Stashinsky for months and intended to bring him to Washington where his appearance would make headlines, not interview him in Germany where there would be no headlines.

But when Boyd reminded Dodd of his obligation as section chief in the civil rights battle, the Senator replied that Klein had been urging him to go to Germany and that Klein was too good a friend. He had to go.

Klein's Hospitality

While the Senator was traveling in Germany, he missed 13 quorum calls. He also left nobody to answer an attack made by Sen. Allen Ellender (D-La.), on the civil rights section which Dodd was supposed to defend.

He took with him to Germany a briefcase full of confidential instructions from Klein, telling him which German leaders to contact and exactly what to say to them. David Martin, who accompanied the Senator on the trip, now claims that Dodd never carried out these instructions. However, three former Dodd employes have stated that Martin, after his return from Germany, told them the Senator had followed Klein's instructions to the letter.

Dodd's claim that he received no gratuities from Klein has also been contradicted by sworn testimony. Boyd testified that the Senator had used Klein's fashionable suite in the Essex House, New York City, 40 or 50 times. When Sherman Adams accepted similar hospitality from Bernard Goldfine at a Boston hotel he was severely criticized and forced to resign.